



# *Proclamation*

## *Presented*

## **In Recognition of National Estuaries Week**

**WHEREAS**, National Estuaries Week emphasizes that estuaries—bodies of water formed where freshwater from rivers and streams flows into the ocean, mixing with the seawater—are unique coastal environments that provide habitat for countless species; and

**WHEREAS**, National Estuaries Week highlights that estuaries provide numerous services to coastal populations, acting as a first line of defense against storms, rising sea levels, and the effects of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, National Estuaries Week underlines that preserving endemic and native fish habitats and populations will also preserve our commercial and recreational fishing and seafood industries, which in Hawai'i generate more than \$450 million in revenue every year; and

**WHEREAS**, National Estuaries Week recognizes that there is a benefit to maintaining our natural coastal environments as our coasts attract millions of tourists and host numerous recreational and cultural activities; and

**WHEREAS**, National Estuaries Week underscores that protecting and restoring our estuaries is vital to our local and national economy because these estuaries sustain the fisheries that feed America, ensure outdoor recreational opportunities for current and future generations, reduce the costly impacts of natural hazards, and support local jobs which cannot be exported;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor** for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim September 20-27, 2014, as

## **“ESTUARIES WEEK”**

in Hawai'i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the fundamental role estuaries play in the Hawai'i so beloved by both our *kama'āina* and visitors alike, and make every effort to protect them from the threats posed by climate change and unsustainable development.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this nineteenth day of September, 2014.

  
NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i